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CHINA BOMB REPORTS SET

Joint Congress Unit Will
Hear Testimony

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[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, July 10—Government witnesses will report to Congress Thursday on Communist China's first hydrogen bomb explosion last month.

Witnesses from the State Department, Defense Department and Central Intelligence Agency are expected to appear at a closed session of the Joint Committee, with membership from both the House and Senate.

The committee regularly confers with experts about the nuclear capabilities of other nations, but this week's hearing comes amid continuing criticism from Republicans about the lack of an American defense against nuclear missile attack.

Nuclear Capabilities

Representative Pettis (R., Cal.) said today that "recent events make it absolutely certain that Red China's nuclear capabilities have been under-estimated by the Defense Department.

"This development makes even more glaring the obvious need for an anti-ballistic missile defense system to discourage any other nuclear power from adventuresome action leading to possible nuclear blackmail," said Pettis, one of 35 first-term Republicans who last month signed a petition urging deployment of a "thin" anti-ballistic missile system.

The petition was directed to Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, who has said a limited defense against a Chinese nuclear attack might involve a total investment of \$3,500,000,000.

Not Clear

McNamara told Congress in January that "it is not clear" that the United States needs such a defense, though he has not ruled out that possibility.

A light or thin defense would cost only a fraction of the sum required for protection against attack by the Soviet Union. An anti-ballistic missile system to ward off a Soviet strike would total about \$40,000,000,000 over a period of ten years, McNamara has estimated.

Representative Ford (R., Mich.), the minority leader, said yesterday that the Administration should go ahead with a missile defense against the Soviet Union now that the Russians have thrown "cold water" on an anti-ballistic missile moratorium.

Save Money

The view has been expressed that both countries could save themselves a great deal of money and perhaps take a step toward peace by foregoing anti-ballistic missile systems.

"I can see no logic in further delaying the crucial decision to get going on an anti-ballistic missile defense while the United States attempts to get agreement with the Soviet Union," Ford said.

"What is perfectly clear is that the United States' reluctance to move forward on anti-ballistic missile defense has in no way slowed the Soviet program defensively or offensively. Time, unlike money, cannot be recovered."